

SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Official Organ of The Saint Louis Bird Club
for the Promotion of
Bird Enjoyment, Bird Study and Bird Conservation

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BIRD CLUB PROGRAM

THE NEXT MEETING OF OUR CLUB will be held December 21, 1932, at Cabanne Library, 8 p.m. Several movie reels depicting bird life will be exhibited, with particular reference to nesting habits. The excellence of these "close-ups" is attested by several who have witnessed them this fall. It is hoped a large group will respond to this plan to have movie reels at our meetings from time to time.

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THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS of the Club will be conducted on Dec. 24, over the Creve Coeur Lake area.

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THE REDHEADS

Reports of the winter whereabouts of Redheads have been received as follows:

Brentmoor- 1, almost daily, Oct. 14 to Nov. 27. T.M.K.

Concordia Seminary- 2, Oct. 12; 3, Nov. 20. T.M.K.

Webster Groves- 1, near Big Bend and Rockhill Roads, Oct. 14; 1, Glendale Park, Nov. 27; 1, Berry Road, Nov. 30. (In Oct., 1931, I had 10 dates, in Oct. 1932, only 1; in Nov., 1931, I had 13 dates, in Nov., 1932, only 2.) R.L.H.

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PORTRAITS OF NEW ENGLAND BIRDS, cloth, \$1.75, contains 92 colored pls. and pictures 344 species. Offered by Secretary of the Commonwealth, Boston.

The 11th ANNUAL MEETING of the INLAND BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION was held December 3, 1932, at the Chicago Academy of Science, Chicago.

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BIRD BANDING NOTES IN COOPERATION WITH THE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

From September 1st, 1932, to December 1st, 1932, in our Bird-Banding work at 118 Waverly Place, Webster Groves, we have had Birds in hand 113 times, but only 48 individuals, and there were 10 species. Of the 48 individuals, we banded 36, 8 were "Returns," and there were 69 "Repeats."

We had Juncos in hand 2 times, 17 individuals, of which 13 were banded during this three months, 4 were "Returns," having been banded at least three months previously, and 7 were Repeaters, coming into the traps from 1 to 90 days after being banded.

Tufted Tits have been in hand 68 times during this period, 11 individuals, of which 5 were banded between Sept. 1 and Dec. 1, 3 were Returns and 60 were Repeaters. One Tufted Tit, C51465, has been in the traps 14 times in 37 days; another, C51460, has been in hand 15 times in 69 days; and Tufted Tit C51463 has been in hand 19 times in 60 days. In at least three instances a Tufted Tit has been in hand twice in one day.

8 Robins were banded but none have repeated.

Blue Jays have been in hand 5 times but only four individuals, 3 being banded, 1 being a "Return," and there being 1 Repeater.

3 Wood Thrushes were banded in September.

Of the following species, 1 was banded of each: Bronzed Grackle, Winter Wren, Myrtle Warbler and White-breasted Nuthatch.

1 Cardinal repeated. E.A.S.

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EDITORIAL

The Executive Committee chose the third Wednesday evening of the month for the Bird Club meetings and arranged accordingly with the Library to meet regularly in the Cabanne Free Library. It is regretted that by some chance the Webster Bird Group chose our date last month, reducing attendance at each meeting.

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The tentative plan for handling the Bulletin was as a monthly, except for the three summer months, and mailing it at a suitable time to serve as announcement for the regular meeting. Your present Editor is driving East to the Scientific Meetings at Atlantic City and will have scant time between his return, about Jan. 10, and the second Wednesday, Jan. 11. Please therefore mail your contributions to him at 24 West St., Media, Pa., by 5 p.m., Dec. 31, if possible, and matter not mailed by that hour, mail to 527 Ivanhoe Place, Webster Groves, to be received there by Jan. 7. The copies then may be ready for mailing by Jan. 14. The Executive Committee of the A.F.S.

FIRST GLIMPSES AT BIRD WEIGHTS

This project of weight-study of birds was suggested by Wm. I. Lyon and S. Prentiss Baldwin, of the Inland Bird Banding Association, and was made

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possible through the cooperation with the Bureau of biological Survey of Elizabeth Allen Satterthwait and myself. The scales weigh from 0.1 to 610 grams. One ounce equals 28.35g.

TABLE OF WEIGHTS

Species	No.	Max.	Min.	Av.
Flicker	1	106	106	106
Blue Jay	27	98	65	85
Bronzed Grackle	6	121	92	106
English Sparrow	16	31	20	27
Slate-colored Junco	17	21	17	19
Chewink	1	37	37	37
Cardinal	6	44	37	41
Myrtle Warbler	1	11	11	11
Catbird	13	38	32	35
Brown Thrasher	16	82	60	69
Carolina Wren	2	19	18	18
Bewick Wren	1	10	10	10
Winter Wren	1	8	8	8
W-breasted Nuthatch	1	21	21	21
Tufted Tit	16	25	18	20
Carolina Chickadee	1	19	18	18
Wood Thrush	13	53	41	46
Robin	22	82	64	73

The accompanying table records the maximum, minimum and average weights in grams of 19 individuals representing 18 species of birds. Where species are represented by only one or two weighings, there is no need for discussion; where there are several records for one species or several weighings of one bird, discussion even now may be interesting, though relatively little of the value ultimately to be expected can be presented at this time. If, however, this early presentation of weight facts and objectives may encourage more of our bird lovers of the St. Louis region to band birds in cooperation with the Biological Survey, with or without including a study of bird avoirdupois, the writer will feel that the work of the St. Louis Bird Club, the Webster Groves Bird Group and the I. B. B. A. will be substantially augmented and the printing of the present article justified.

The first purpose in taking weight records is to acquire information. The second is to improve identifications of difficult species and the determination of sex where plumage is not sufficient.

Young Blue Jays in June made heav-

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ier records in June than any records of Jays, adult or young, since. While the young are being fed by the parents they appear to reach their peak of plumpness, reducing definitely when thrown upon their own resources. One young Jay weighed 83.8 on June 15, and only 73.2 on July 17.

Two ♂ Bronzed Grackles weighed respectively 110.7 and 121g., and one ♀ weighed 92.4, showing a tendency to greater weight in the ♂ in this species.

Ten ♂ English Sparrows averaged .5 gram less than did six ♀, reversing the tendency direction of the Grackle.

In the case of the Juncos, 5 ♂ averaged 20.5g., while 6 ♀ averaged 18.6 grams each.

One adult ♂ Cardinal dropped from 44.4 to 42.2 between June 3 and June 8; a ♀ with imperfect beak furnished the following record: May 13, 41.8; 17, 44.2; 22, 42.4; June 1, 52.1; 14, 43; 29, 41.

Among the Brown Thrashers, young birds register about as much weight as the heaviest. One young bird lost 5.4 grams between July 1 and 10, and another lost 4.9 between July 17 and 22. Both of these losses may reasonably have been incidental to weaning.

The Carolina Chickadee is one of the species in which weight will undoubtedly aid in correct determination. The adult in this record had been banded some time before and measurements taken. There was a difference of judgment and again measurements led the writer to continue to register this bird as the Carolina Chickadee. The five nestlings weighed respectively 34.6, 34.9, 35, 35.3 and 37.5 and ably took flight a few minutes after they were restored to the nest box. The parent bird weighed 33.5 grams. This is a very convincing example of parent-fed youngsters being heavier when ready to travel alone than their parents, at least sometimes. The inference that these plump young birds will come down in weight to the level of the parent soon after they are on their responsibility alone seems fair.

Among the Robins, a young bird weighed Oct. 8, contributed the high-

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est record we have for the species.

If other bird banders weigh their birds, we may find ecology a solvent for some of the variations in weights. A.F.S., I.B.B.A. Councilor for Mo.

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OBSERVATIONS

Miss L.R. Ernst reports having this fall seen a hundred American Egrets and hundreds of Cormorants on Horse-shoe Lake. One afternoon she visited the Lake and was informed by the keeper that he had that morning observed 40 American Egrets assemble on the lake bank and together take flight south. These seemed to be the very last leaving this feeding ground.

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Charlottesville, Va. A Scaup Duck about Nov. 13 and 3 American Mergansers Nov. 27, were on the City Reservoir. Natural water surfaces are lacking.

Nov. 25. Shrikes, Bluebirds, Cardinals and Mockingbirds in full song. The day was very warm. In the suburbs of Charlottesville. Purple Finches, common, were feeding in the sycamores; Prairie Horned Larks were seen flying rapidly moving eastward as the fields were cleared. A Sharp-shinned Hawk in a hedgerow among Cardinals and Sparrows was interrupted in his breakfast hunt.

Nov. 28 - 1 Pileated Woodpecker in flight from one ridge to another. (On a previous trip the hollow call of the Pileated resounded among the hills as if their number was fairly large.)

N. R. Barger.

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Nov. 6, 1932, 12.00 Noon to 1.00 p.m. Forest Park, west of Municipal Opera grounds, on the hillside. Temperature 65°, weather clear; Bob White, English Sparrow, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, American Crow, Purple Finch, Slate-colored Junco.

Luther Ely Smith.

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Nov. 20 - Large flocks of Redwinged Blackbirds out Olive Road near Missouri River.

Nov. 20 - 4 Shrikes out Olive Road near Missouri River.

Nov. 20 - European Tree Sparrow at house.

Nov. 20 - Redbellied Woodpecker

Nov. 24 - Whitebreasted Nuthatch in yard. (R.L.H. continued on page 16.)

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OBSERVATIONS (contd.)

Nov. 24 - Chickadee entered a trap temporarily set in my yard and shortly thereafter escaped of his own accord by ingeniously squeezing longitudinally down to the space afforded by the round meshes of the trap.

In 1932 I had 6 November dates for Meadowlark in a certain field near by: this year I have no November dates, due largely to the permanent frightening away of these birds by a weekly turkey shoot.

Nov. 24 - Flicker, Webster.

Nov. 25 - Sparrow Hawk, Glendale.

Nov. 27 - Redbreasted Nuthatch, Glendale.

Nov. 27 - 3 Tree Sparrows, Glendale.

Nov. 30 - Downy Woodpecker found with broken neck on grounds at Country Day.

Nov. 30 - Robin, Country Day.

Nov. 30 - Flock of 12 Cardinals at Country Day School.

Dec. 3 - Song Sparrow, between Big Bend and Watson Rds. R.L.H.

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Nov. 30 - Heard Bluebird, east of Denny, between Olive and St. Charles Rds. A.F.S.

Dec. 2 - Heard Robin on Ivanhoe Place, Webster. A.F.S.

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Nov. 11 - Grubville, Mo. : 3 coveys of Bob White, totaling about 45; 5 unidentified Hawks; 3 flocks of Slate-colored Juncos, totaling about 75; 2 pairs of Cardinals; about 20 White-throated Sparrows. Marshall Magnier.

Marshall Magnier reports from his home on Lee Ave., Webster Groves:

Oct. 5 - White-throated Sparrow, first date, Nov. 15, last date;

Oct. 12 - 12, 12 Flicker, 10 Towhee;

Oct. 19 - Slate-colored Junco, 12 Bob White;

Oct. 20 - White-eyed Vireo;

Nov. 10 - 5 Bob White.

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Tom Kirksey reported for the Nov. Bulletin that he observed a White-eyed Vireo, Oct. 24. If either Magnier's or Kirksey's determination is correct, this is a late record. Oct. 14 is the latest in Widmann's Catalog. Ed.

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NEWS

Mr. Perkins, of the Curtiss-Wright Airplane Mfg. Co., Lambert-St. Louis Field, contributed the following list of names of birds which have been used in the naming of airplanes: Curtiss-Wright Airplane Company: Tanager, Auk, Falcon, Shrike, Robin, Thrush, Kingbird, Condor, Oriole, Osprey, Eagle, Goshawk, Hummingbird, Hell Diver, Owl, Teal, Duck, Carrier Pigeon, Fledgling; Other Airplane Companies: Flamingo, Cardinal, Eaglet, Swallow, Skylark, Buzzard, Albatross.

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M. Magnier, in cooperation with the Biological Survey, banded a Blue Jay Jan. 1, 1931, and recaptured it May 14 and June 19, 1931, and Oct. 28, 1932, and each time it was tailless.

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The Official Record (U.S. Dept. Agr.) of Oct. 19, states that for six years in succession a Mallard Duck, tagged by a bird-banding collaborator of the Biological Survey, J. J. Keller, of Antioch, Nebr., has nested in a box on his barn roof.

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Birds sometimes suddenly drop all their tail feathers without external disturbance of the tail. Is this act voluntary or involuntary? If voluntary is it due to a physical reaction akin to fatal fright?? Will Dr. Terry or Mr. H. M. Kennon kindly tell us? Ed.

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N. R. Barger, 861 West Main, Charlottesville, Va., says Virginia now has two men actively working on a State Bird Book.

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PERSONALS

N. R. Barger, on a trip in the Blue Ridge proper with the president of the Virginia State Ornithological Club, about Nov. 1, found several Ruffed Grouse in the same territory with tracks of Bear and Wildcat.

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Tom Kirksey addressed the Webster Bird Group on "Birding from the Mississippi to the Pacific," Nov. 16. His observations from the moving auto included about 100 species. Tom will spend a month studying the birds of the Everglades.

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